

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00620 092110Z
ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0620

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ZA
SUBJ: NEW HIGH LEVEL GRZ APPOINTMENTS

1. STATE HOUSE ANNOUNCED OVER THE WEEKEND APPOINTMENT OF DOMINIC MULAISHO AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND MILIMO PUNABANTU AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESS. MULAISHO, WHO WILL MOVE FROM HIS PRESENT POSITION AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF INDECO, WILL ALSO TAKE OVER A NEW POSITION CREATED LAST YEAR -- CHAIRMAN OF THE PARASTATAL SERVICE COMMISSION.

2. THE POST OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HAS BEEN VACANT FOR SOME MONTHS; MULAISHO'S ASSIGNMENT TO THAT POSITION IS A STEP TOWARDS GIVING IT MORE WEIGHT. HE RECEIVED GOOD MARKS FOR HIS PERFORMANCE AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (INDECO) AND BEFORE THAT FOR HIS MANAGEMENT OF THE MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MINDECO). MULAISHO HAS SERVED PREVIOUSLY AT STATE HOUSE AS PERMANENT SECRETARY IN 1965-66. WHILE FAITHFUL TO THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMANISM, HE HAS SHOWN FLEXIBILITY IN RECOGNIZING THAT PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN ZAMBIA. MULAISHO IS ONE OF ZAMBIA'S BETTER KNOWN AUTHORS.

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00620 092110Z

3. PUNABANTU WAS EDITOR OF THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA FROM 1974 TO 1977 AND BEFORE THAT PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. HE LEFT HIS JOB AS EDITOR AFTER UNIP COMPLETED ITS TAKEOVER OF THE TIMES IN JANUARY 1977. HIS DEPARTURE COINCIDED WITH THE END OF HIS THREE YEAR CONTRACT, BUT THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT HE HAD BEEN REMOVED FOR OFFENDING THE PARTY LEADERSHIP OR AT LEAST

BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING OTHERS WHO HAD. HIS
ASSIGNMENT TO STATE HOUSE WOULD INDICATE THAT HE WWS NOT
HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OFFENSES AND IS STILL IN GOOD
GRACES WITH THE PARTY. THE EMBASSY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PUNABANTU
WHILE HE WAS EDITOR WAS GOOD. HIS MANAGEMENT OF THE TIMES
WAS REASONABLY EFFICIENT, BUT HE DID NOT, OR PERHAPS COULD
NOT, MAINTAIN TIGHT CONTROL OF WHAT APPEARED IN HIS PAPER.
A MAN OF PUNABANTU'S BACKGROUND WILL ENHANCE THE
PRESTIGE OF THE POSITION OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE PRESS. HOWEVER, WE ARE SCEPTICAL ABOUT HIS ABILITY
TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN HIS PRECECESSORS IN PROVIDING
CONSISTENT AND EFFECTIVE GUIDANCE TO THE ZAMBIA MEDIA. LOW

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ZA, (MULATSHO, DOMINIC), (PUNABANTU, MILIMO)
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